

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE UNIVERSITY**

## Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)/Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST) and the International Space University (ISU) is to establish a continuing relationship between FAA and ISU. Both organizations have common interests in promoting space activities for peaceful purposes and in encouraging economic growth through career development and education associated with such interests. This agreement is intended to advance these interests.

FAA/AST derives the legal authority to enter into this agreement under 49 U.S.C., Subtitle IX, ch. 701, section 70103 (b), and delegated authority under 49 CFR §1.47 (v) and U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration Notice N 1100.240, Commercial Space Transportation Delegations of Authority.

## Background

The mission of FAA/AST is to provide the United States with a minimal, yet stable, appropriate, and fairly and expeditiously applied regulatory framework for the safe conduct of commercial space transportation. FAA/AST seeks to be responsive to the dynamic nature of the launch industry's needs, economic conditions, environmental concerns and aerospace educational opportunities. ISU is an interdisciplinary, international and intercultural educational institution that prepares individuals to respond to the current needs and to the evolving demands of space-related sectors in a rapidly changing world. It is a post-graduate-level institution, dedicated to contributions to the development of outer space for peaceful purposes through education and research. ISU is sponsored by government space agencies, companies, and private organizations and foundations from many nations, including the United States.

## Scope

FAA/AST and ISU share a common interest in promoting commercial space through education. By developing and enhancing an interest in aerospace and facilitating the development of aerospace education programs, FAA/AST can help ensure that the U.S. aerospace industry will be supplied with an interested, knowledgeable and educated workforce into the future and ISU can help achieve the same goal worldwide.

The intention of this MOU is to develop, to the extent permissible under current laws and regulations, a long-standing cooperative relationship between FAA/AST and ISU.

## Agreement

FAA/AST and ISU agree to a government/education partnership which will promote student learning and education excellence in the field of aerospace. Areas of cooperation may include the following:

- ISU support for COMSTAC:

ISU will support the FAA Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC) through the nomination of qualified persons to FAA/AST for its consideration for the "Under Thirty" seat on COMSTAC.

- FAA/AST facilitation of ISU alumni participation in COMSTAC working groups:

FAA/AST will provide the dates of future COMSTAC meetings, which ISU alumni are invited to attend. FAA/AST will provide the names of the Chairpersons of COMSTAC working groups so that interested ISU alumni may participate in working group activities.

- ISU MSS Professional Placement:

FAA/AST will consider having qualified ISU Master of Space Studies (MSS) students become unpaid interns in the FAA/AST office. This will provide FAA/AST and ISU an opportunity for cooperation in developing students' practical understanding of government activities in commercial space transportation.

- ISU collaboration with FAA/AST on workshops, seminars and public education

fora: FAA/AST and ISU will work together on workshops, seminars, public education fora and professional development on courses of mutual interest.

- Web site link exchange:

There will be opportunities to link FAA/AST and ISU Web sites for specific activities.

- Other specific areas of collaborative work in the area of educational development not listed above may also be considered under this MOU.

Duration, Amendment and Termination

This MOU will enter into force upon signature of the parties and will remain in force for five years and automatically renew. The MOU may be terminated at any time by either party upon three months prior notice or amended by written agreement of the two parties.

For the FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

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Patricia Grace Smith  
Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation

Date

For the International Space University

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Karl Doetsch  
President

Date